



# IowaAging.gov

## AgingWatch

Volume 12, Issue 8 | November 30, 2012

The link to policy affecting older Iowans

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### Election Results

With most of the races settled, Iowans have voted to keep the Democrats in power in the Senate and the Republicans in power in the House of Representatives. The Democrats held on to the majority in the Senate with 26 seats out of 50. The Republicans maintained a majority in the House of Representatives with a 53-47 split.

For the full results of the Senate elections, click [here](#) to link to the Secretary of State's summary of Iowa Senate results.

For the full results of the House elections, click [here](#) to link to the Secretary of State's summary of Iowa House election results.

The Senate retains the partisan division it had prior to the election. The Democrats retain control with 26 seats, but this majority could grow. There is one seat still up for grabs in a special election to be held in December in Senate District 22, which includes portions of Clive, Waukee, West Des Moines, and Windsor Heights in Polk and Dallas County. The special election is necessary to fill the seat that became vacant upon the passing of Senator Pat Ward. In a close contest in Senate District 28, which covers all of Allamakee and Clayton Counties and a portion of Fayette County and Winneshiek County, John Beard has requested a recount in his contest with Republican Michael Breitbach. John Beard trails by only 23 votes with over 29,000 votes cast.

The Republicans have held a majority in the House of Representatives, but did lose a few seats in the elections. The Republicans currently hold a 53-47 majority, down from the 60-40 majority they held prior to the election. This majority could become more tenuous as there are two Republican seats being contested with recounts. In Iowa House district 63, which includes Bremer County and part of Black Hawk County, Democrat Bill Heckerth trailed Republican Sandy Salmon by 115 votes and has requested a recount. In House District 59, which includes the city of Windsor Heights as well as portions of Clive and West Des Moines in Polk County, Democrat Susan Judkins trailed Republican incumbent Chris Hagenow by only 22 votes and has requested a recount. In addition, there will likely be a special election in House District 52, which includes all of Chickasaw and Floyd coun-

*(continued on page 2)*

Iowa  
Election



2012

*Election Results (continued)*

ties and the eastern edge of Cerro Gordo County. Representative Brian Quirk, a Democrat from New Hampton, recently stepped down to accept a new employment position.

Even though all the dust is yet to settle, both Democrats and Republicans have selected new leaders in the Senate and familiar faces will remain in the House.

Within the Senate, both parties have elected new leaders. The Democrats have voted Senator Pam Jochum as Senate President. Senator Jochum will be replacing Senator Jack Kibbie, who decided to retire this year. On the Republican side, Senator Bill Dix will be the new leader of the minority party. Previous Republican Senate Leader Jerry Behn did not seek reelection to the post.

Unlike the Senate, leadership remains status quo in the Iowa House. The Republicans will keep Representative Kraig Paulsen as the Speaker and Representative Linda Upmeyer as the House Majority Leader. Representative Kevin McCarthy was re-elected as the House Democratic leader.

There will be around 38 new members of the House and Senate going into the 2013 legislative session. AgingWatch will provide a comprehensive directory of legislators, with contact information, as the 2013 legislative session draws closer.

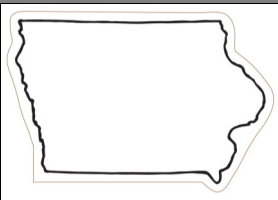


## **85th Iowa General Assembly**

### **First day of session: January 14, 2013**

With the fall of the gavel, AgingWatch will strive to keep you informed about all issues and legislation impacting older Iowans and the aging network. We will publish the fourth Friday during session, and more frequently as necessary. Stay informed. Stay engaged in the process!

## **Reduction Of Area Agencies On Aging**



**What is a  
Planning and Service  
Area?**

Under the Older Americans Act, a “planning and service area” is an area designated by the Iowa Department on Aging that requires an individual plan on how services to older Iowans will be provided.

## **Designation of Six New Area Agencies on Aging**

On November 15, the Iowa Commission on Aging voted to approve the designation of six new area agencies on aging. The following organizations were selected to serve as Iowa’s area agencies on aging effective July 1, 2013:

- Elderbridge Area Agency on Aging, Mason City
- Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging, Waterloo
- Aging Resources of Central Iowa, Des Moines
- Heritage Area Agency on Aging, Cedar Rapids
- Seneca Area Agency on Aging, Ottumwa
- Southwest 8 Senior Services, Council Bluffs

Each new area agency on aging will serve one planning and service area within the state. A map is included on the following page that shows each planning and service area and the area agency on aging that will facilitate services within each area.

The designation of the area agencies on aging is the most recent action taken by the Department on Aging to fulfill the mandate to reduce Iowa’s area agencies on aging pursuant to legislation known as House File 45 ( passed in 2011) and House File 2320 (passed in 2012).

The Department will be working closely with the newly designated area agencies on aging to ensure uninterrupted service to Iowans. Newly designated area agencies on aging will receive training and assistance between now and July 1, 2013, to ensure that needs of Iowans living within each planning and service area are met and that the transition moves forward smoothly.

The Department has received a number of questions regarding the process. Some of the most frequent questions, and the answers to those questions, are provided below:

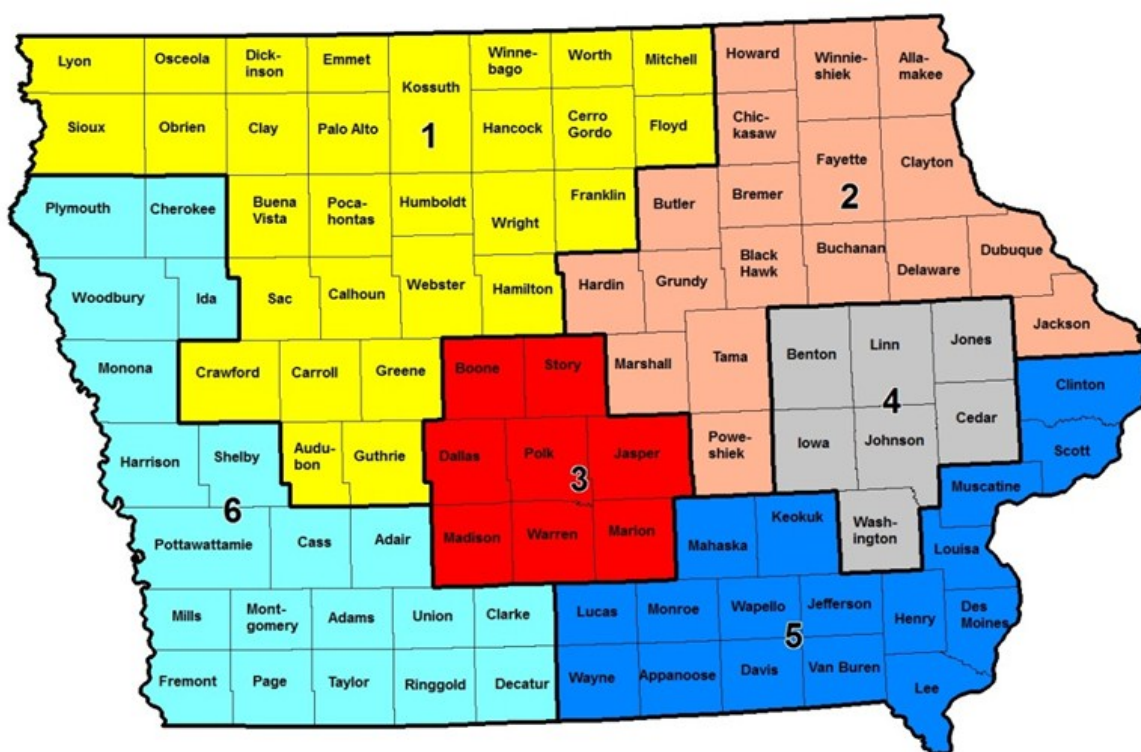
**Q:** My new area agency on aging will be located in a particular city. Does this mean I have to drive to the new location to get services?

**A:** No. The new area agencies on aging will be providing services in larger regions. Many area agencies on aging will be utilizing satellite offices. There may be a satellite office in your community. In addition, the area agencies on aging have always been willing and able to travel to locations within their planning and service area to assist Iowans.

## Aging Watch

Q: When should I expect to see a new area agency on aging?

A: Depending on where you live, you may not see a change in your planning and service area. All newly designated area agencies on aging are current area agencies on aging. Newly designated area agencies on aging will become official and will begin doing business on July 1, 2013. Current area agencies on aging that were not designated as new area agencies on aging must discontinue business on June 30, 2012.



**Service Area 1**—Elderbridge Area Agency on Aging

**Service Area 2**—Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging

**Service Area 3**—Aging Resources of Central Iowa

**Service Area 4**—Heritage Area Agency on Aging

**Service Area 5**—Seneca Area Agency on Aging

**Service Area 6**—Southwest 8 Senior Services

## **The Fiscal Cliff and What it Means for Older Iowans**

You probably have heard about the Fiscal Cliff by now. (Unless you are still in isolation hiding from campaign ads.) Do you know what it is? The Fiscal Cliff is a term that was coined to describe the financial consequences of pending federal legislation. There are two parts to the Fiscal cliff. The first is the expiration of the tax cuts put into place during the George W. Bush administration and then extended by the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010. The second part of the Fiscal Cliff is the sequestration of funds under the Budget Control Act of 2011. Sequestration refers to automatic cuts to federal programs that will go into effect on January 2, 2013 if Congress fails to reach an agreement.

The tax cuts that are set to sunset are related to individuals, investments, and estates. The tax sunset may impact individual tax payers in a number of ways. The employee portion of Social Security Tax withholding will revert back to 6.2% from 4.2%. There will be an increase in all income tax rates and a reduction of tax brackets from six to five. Also, there will be a reduction in the standard deduction for married couples and those caring for a dependent.

The other side of the Fiscal Cliff is the sequestration of funds. Without Congressional intervention, sequestration would create an across-the-board \$1.2 trillion reduction for many federal programs. There are specific programs that would be exempt from sequestration. Exempt programs include Social Security and Medicaid. There is also a 2% limit on Medicare cuts. As you may notice, the Older Americans Act is not included in the exempt list. Under the Congressional Budget Office estimate, the sequestration of funds would cost the Administration on Aging \$121 Million or 8.2% of the annual federal funding.

Since Older Americans Act funds are not exempt, the more pressing Fiscal Cliff issue for the Iowa Department on Aging is the sequestration of funds. The federal Administration on Aging is the primary funding source for programs provided by the Iowa Department on Aging and the Area Agencies on Aging. The 8.2% cut in funding would flow through to the Iowa Department on Aging and on to the Area Agencies on Aging. This would translate to a \$1.4 million dollar loss for aging programs. This loss in funding would have a significant effect on the Iowans that rely upon these services and would result in the loss of 161,683 units of service impacting 24,171 Iowans in need of services.

Watch for additional information regarding the Fiscal Cliff in upcoming issues of AgingWatch.



## **Next month in AgingWatch:**

- How to Advocate for Aging Issues
- Update on Area Agency Transition
- Calendar for 85th Iowa General Assembly
- Who's Who in the Statehouse

## **Watch the website for the following reports :**

- Elder Abuse Report to the Legislature
- Office of Substitute Decision Maker Report to the Legislature

available [here](#) after the December 11 meeting of the Commission on Aging.

## **To subscribe to AgingWatch**

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*AgingWatch will be published regularly during the legislative session and monthly in the interim by the Iowa Department on Aging. Recipients of the e-mail notice of publication are encouraged to share it with others.*

*The current issue may be found on the Department's website, [www.iowaaging.gov](http://www.iowaaging.gov). Past issues are archived in the "Publications/Information" section.*



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Please feel free to forward AgingWatch to others who are interested in issues and programs that impact older Iowans.

**The Mission** of the Iowa Department on Aging is to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of long term living and community support services that help individuals maintain health and independence in their homes and communities.